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Area Receives Funding via the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI)

Rochester, NY - Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (D-Fairport), Chair of the House Rules Committee, today announced that the Rochester region will receive $2,748,949 in Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency funding for the area's Metropolitan Medical ResponseSystem (MMRS). The area will also receive funding via the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI), a federally funded program designed to assist jurisdictions considered to be at high risk for incidents involving weapons of mass destruction. The Rochester region receives this money each year because it is identified as a high-risk area.

"This critical funding will give our first responders the resources they need to communicate in the event of an emergency," said Rep. Slaughter. "This funding will assist the police and emergency service departments in the Rochester area in their efforts to protect our citizens."

It is expected that the UASI funding recipients, including the City of Rochester Police Department, the Monroe County Sheriff's Office and the Monroe County Department of Emergency Management, will use this funding to purchase equipment for emergency responder special teams, such as bomb squads or hazmat teams. Under cooperative agreements, the new equipment can be used by any entity which is part of the Rochester "Urban Area Working Group" which includes emergency response workers in the 5 counties that surround Monroe County.

The breakdown of the funding for Rochester is as follows:

- UASI ($2,307,800)
- MMRS ($321,221)
- UASI NSGP ($119,928)

BACKGROUND

Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI)

UASI is a federally funded program designed to assist jurisdictions considered to be at high risk for incidents involving weapons of mass destruction.

Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS)

The MMRS Program was created in 1996, in response to the Tokyo mass transit Sarin gas attack by Aum Shinrikyo and the domestic terrorist bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building in Oklahoma City, both having occurred in 1995.

The MMRS program assists 124 highly populated jurisdictions to develop plans, conduct training and exercises, and acquire pharmaceuticals and personal protective equipment, to achieve the enhanced capability necessary to respond to a mass casualty event caused by a WMD terrorist act. This assistance supports the jurisdictions' activities to increase their response capabilities during the first hours crucial to lifesaving and population protection, with their own resources, until significant external assistance can arrive.

Gaining these capabilities also increases the preparedness of the jurisdictions for a mass casualty event caused by an incident involving hazardous materials, an epidemic disease outbreak, or a natural disaster. MMRS fosters an integrated, coordinated approach to medical response planning and operations, as well as medical incident management at the local level.

Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Nonprofit Security Grant Program

The UASI NSGP allocates grants to eligible 501(c)(3) organizations at high risk of terrorist attack in high-risk Urban Areas. Grants are allocated through eligible State Administering Agencies according to criteria that include: (1) prior threats or attacks by a terrorist organization; (2) symbolic value of a site that renders it a possible terrorist target; (3) the organization's role in responding to or recovering from terrorist attacks; and (4) the organization's threat, vulnerability and/or consequence as determined by a previously conducted risk assessment.

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